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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/762,471

01/23/2004

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118462

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EXAMINER

ROBINSON BOYCE, AKIBA K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3628

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

04/17/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/762,471

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Akiba K. Robinson-Boyce

Art Unit

3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 062804.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Due to communications filed 1/23/04, the following is a non-final first office action. Claims 1-15 are pending in this application and have been examined on the merits. Claims 1-15 are rejected as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Masamichi et al (2003-085347), as cited by applicant.

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application.

Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

As per claims 1, 6, 11, Masamichi et al discloses:

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an inquiry unit configured to direct inquiries to the plurality of groups concerning activities, each of the activities include one or more attributes, performed by the groups/directing inquiries...([0022], organization communication points out the thing of communication, w/ [0026] shows reading of communication groups, w/ [0046], shows # of replies, # of speakers, etc., which represent attributes, and the activities are represented by events);

an attribute analysis unit configured to examine activity data included in responses received from the plurality of groups to which inquiries were directed, to analyze attributes that are used for the activities by the plurality of groups, and to generate attribute data that represent the attributes obtained as the result of the analysis/examining activity data...analyzing attributes... ([0046], taking the # of replies, # of speakers, etc, and computing index values); and

an evaluation unit configured to evaluate, based on the activity data and the attribute data, values of the activities, the attributes and the groups, or the values of one or more arbitrary combinations of the activities, the attributes and the groups/evaluating, based on the activity data...([0046], comparative analysis of values, shows index change value is calculable).

As per claims 2, 7, 12, Masamichi et al discloses:

wherein the activity data include partner group data representing groups that have acted as partners for the activities, and activity contents data representing the contents of the activities, ([0026] shows reading of communication groups for organizations, in this case, partnership is inherent with an organization since members

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of an organization are in the state of being in association or joint interest , w/ [0046], shows # of replies, # of speakers, etc., which represent contents, and the activities are represented by events);

wherein the attribute analysis unit analyzes the activity contents data included in the activity data, and generates the attribute data representing the attributes of the activities/analyzing the activity contents...generating...([0046], taking the # of replies, # of speakers, etc, and computing index values); and

wherein, based on either or both of the activity contents data and the attribute data, and the partner group data, the evaluation unit evaluates the number of groups that are influenced by either or both of the activities and the attributes, and the magnitude and the range of the influence, or the values of one or more arbitrary combinations of the number of groups, the magnitude of the influence, and the range of the influence/evaluating... ([0046], comparative analysis of values, shows index change value is calculable).

As per claims 3, 8, 13, Masamichi et al discloses:

wherein the activities are propagation of information, wherein the activity data include information recipient data representing recipient groups of information and information contents data representing the contents of the information that has been propagated/wherein the activity data include information recipient data representing recipient groups of information and information contents data representing the contents of the information that has been propagated, ([0024], [0026], shows use of mailing lists or (MLs), which represent a propagation of information, w/[0046], shows # of replies, #

of speakers, etc., which represent contents of the information that has been sent with the mailing lists about activity or event data);

wherein the attribute analysis unit analyzes the information content data included in the activity data, and generates the attribute data that represent the attribute of the information that has been propagated/analyzing...generating..., ([0046], taking the # of replies, # of speakers, etc, and computing index values);and

wherein, based on either or both of the information content data and the attribute data, and the recipient group data, the evaluation unit evaluates the number of groups that are influenced by either or both of the information and the attributes, and the magnitude and the range of the influence, or the values of one or more arbitrary combinations of the number of groups, the magnitude of the influence, and the range of the influence/evaluating..., ([0046], comparative analysis of values, shows index change value is calculable).

As per claims 4, 9,14, Masamichi et al discloses:

wherein the activities are psychological activities, ([0071], viewpoint);

wherein the activity data include object group data representing objects for the psychological activities, and psychological activity contents data that represent the contents of the psychological activities, ([0026] shows reading of communication groups for organizations, in this case, partnership is inherent with an organization since members of an organization are in the state of being in association or joint interest , w/ [0046], shows # of replies, # of speakers, etc., which represent contents, and the activities are represented by events);

wherein the attribute analysis unit analyzes the psychological activity content data included in the activity data, and generates the attribute data that represents the attributes of the psychological activities/analyzing the psychological activity...generating the attribute data..., ([0046], taking the # of replies, # of speakers, etc, and computing index values); and

wherein, based on either or both of the psychological activity contents data and the attribute data, and the object group data, the evaluation unit evaluates the number of groups that are influenced by either or both of the psychological activities and the attributes, the magnitude of the influence and the range of the influence, or the value of one or more arbitrary combinations of the number of groups, the magnitude of the influence and the range of the influence, ([0026] shows reading of communication groups for organizations, in this case, partnership is inherent with an organization since members of an organization are in the state of being in association or joint interest , w/ [0046], shows # of replies, # of speakers, etc., which represent contents, and the activities are represented by events).

As per claims 5, 10, 15, Masamichi et al discloses:

wherein the plurality of groups are either or both of the members and the organizations that include one or more components, ([0246], # or replies, # of speakers, etc).

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akiba K Robinson-Boyce whose telephone number is 571-272-6734. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7238 [After final communications, labeled "Box AF"], 703-746-7239 [Official Communications], and 703-746-7150 [Informal/Draft Communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"].

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. R. B.", written in black ink.

A. R. B.
April 13, 2007